

ABSOLUTE

BATMAN



ALL IN

15+
TEEN+

17



DRAGOTA

SNYDER
CANETE
MARTIN



VERTIGO

WHAT CHANCE DOES A 1940S P.I. HAVE AGAINST THE POWER OF A GOD?

THE PERIL OF THE

BRUTAL

AN
**EZRA
CAIN**
MYSTERY **#1**

WRITTEN BY
**CHRIS
CONDON**
ART AND COVER BY
**JACOB
PHILLIPS**

THE FIRST SIX-ISSUE ADVENTURE IN A NEW
RECURRING SERIES BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

VERTIGO IS BACK. AND IT'S NOTHING YOU'VE SEEN BEFORE.

17+
MATURE

© & TM DC.



ON MY TENTH BIRTHDAY,
MY MOTHER SURPRISES
ME WITH A TRIP INTO
GOTHAM CITY.

WE LIVE WAY OUT IN KANE
COUNTY, DEEP IN THE
WOODS. JUST THE TWO
OF US. I'M NOT USED TO
WEARING SHOES.

WE VISIT THE **HEART BUILDING**,
GO TO THE VERY TOP. THE HEIGHT
IS DIZZYING, BUT MY MOTHER
GRIPS MY HAND TIGHT.



"DO THEY CALL IT
THE HEART BUILDING
BECAUSE IT'S SHAPED
LIKE A HEART?" I
ASK, PEEKING OVER
THE EDGE.

"NO, IVY GIRL," SHE SAYS.
SHE CALLS ME **IVY** BECAUSE
I LOVE CLIMBING TREES IN
THE HOLLOW BEHIND OUR
CABIN. "IT'S CALLED THAT
BECAUSE IT WAS BUILT AT
THE HEART OF THE CITY,
WHERE THE CROSSWINDS
INTERSECT, CARRYING
CURRENTS TO ALL FIVE
BOROUGHES.

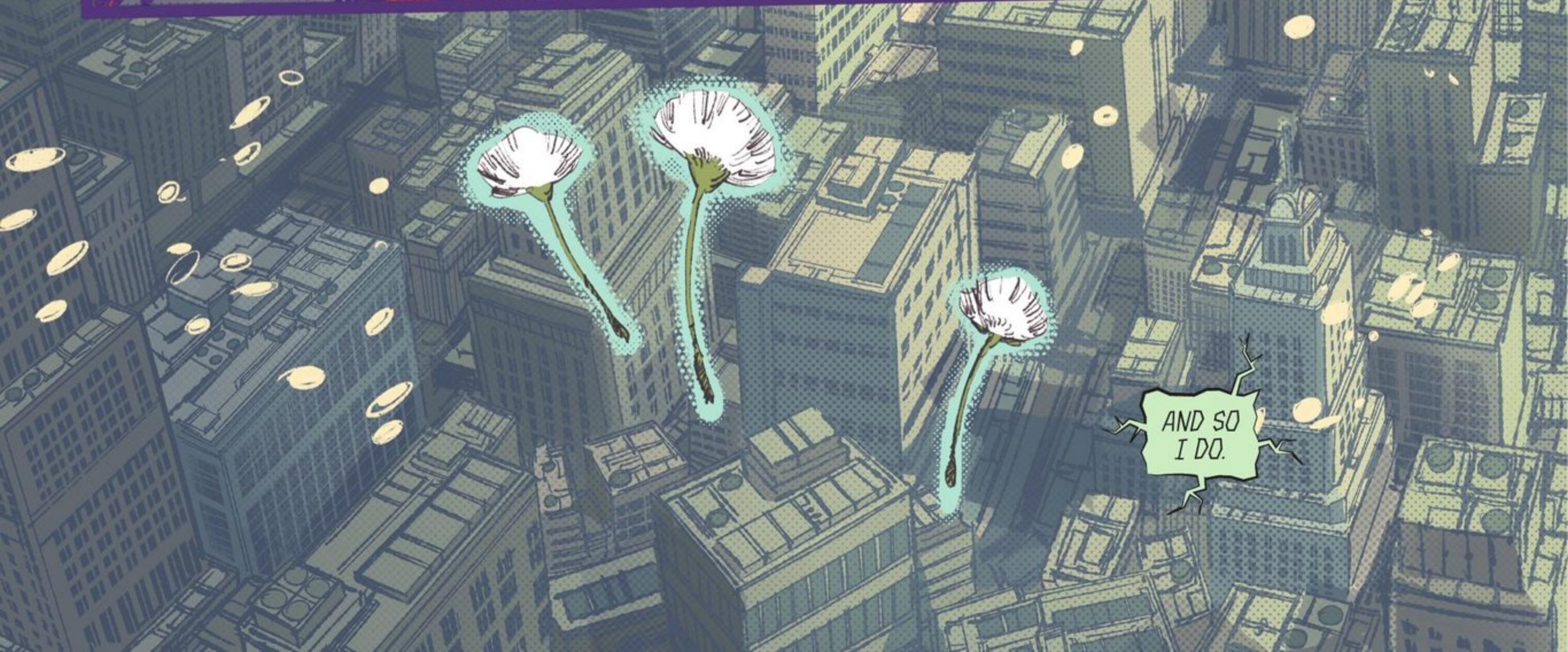
"THE LEGEND IS, MORE THAN
ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE CITY,
THIS SPOT GIVES A **WISH** THE
BEST CHANCE OF TAKING ROOT
SOMEWHERE OUT THERE AND
GROWING STRONG."



MY MOTHER PLUCKS A
DANDELION FOR ME. SHE
IS ALREADY **SICK**, BUT I
DON'T KNOW THIS YET.



"MAKE A WISH
FROM THE HEART,"
SHE SAYS.



AND SO
I DO.

NOW.

HELLO?

WHOEVER'S
UP HERE, THIS
IS PRIVATE
PROPERTY.

YOU
NEED
TO--

POP!

WHAT
THE...

SKREEE

#%&@
HELL!

WELCOME,
OFFICER...

...TO MY
WISH.

ABSOLUTE
BATMAN

THE SEVENTH KINGDOM – PART 1

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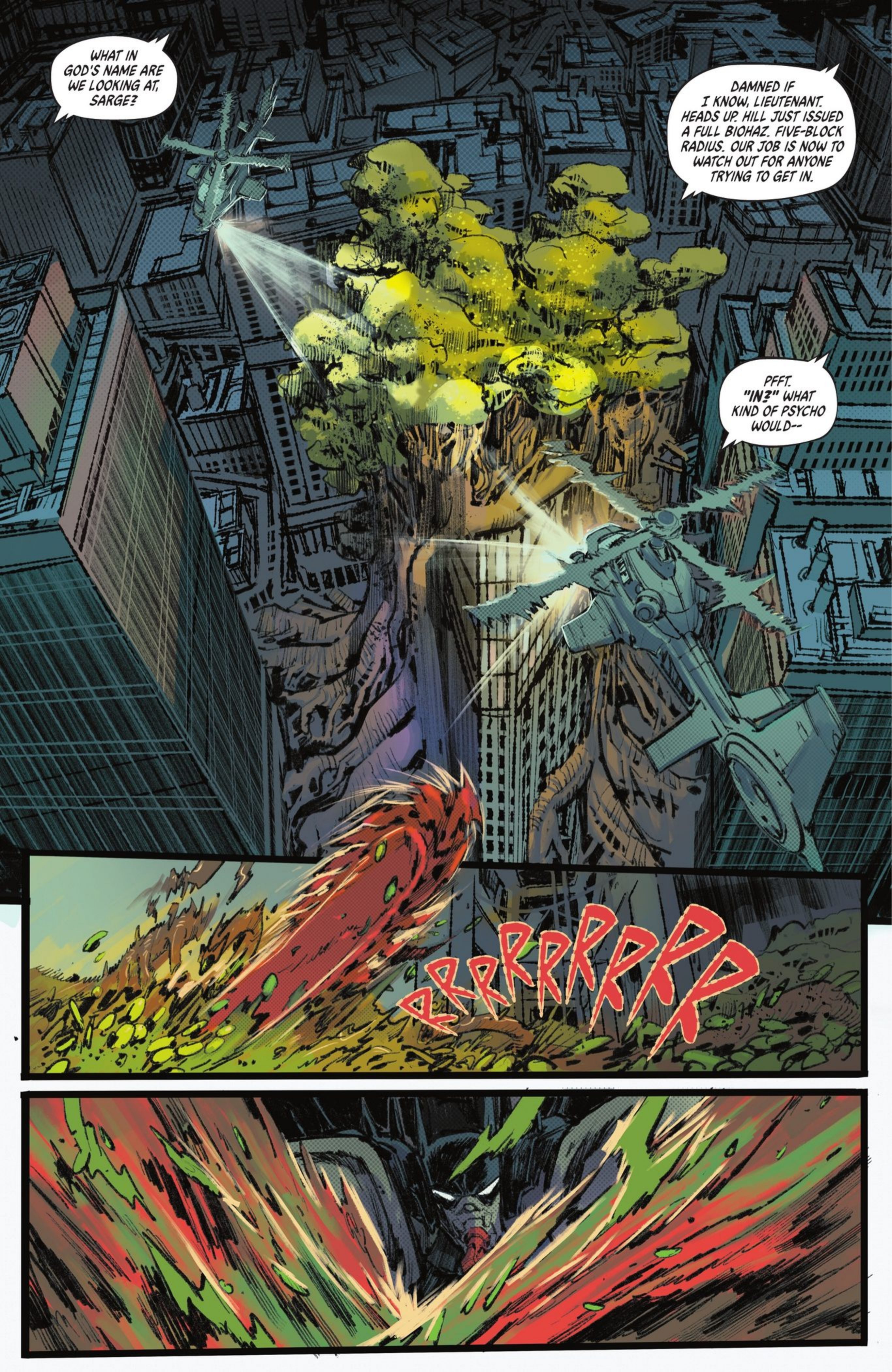
NICK DRAGOTTA AND FRANK MARTIN
COVER

**CLAYTON GRAIN, DAN PANOSIAN,
ERIC CANETE, KARL KERSCHL**
VARIANT COVERS

SABRINA FUTCH
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EDITOR

**BATMAN CREATED BY
BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER**



WHAT IN
GOD'S NAME ARE
WE LOOKING AT,
SARGE?

DAMNED IF
I KNOW, LIEUTENANT.
HEADS UP HILL JUST ISSUED
A FULL BIOHAZ. FIVE-BLOCK
RADIUS. OUR JOB IS NOW TO
WATCH OUT FOR ANYONE
TRYING TO GET IN.

PFFT.
"IN?" WHAT
KIND OF PSYCHO
WOULD--

RRRRRRRR



I'M IN.

TALK.

GCPD INTEL INDICATES THE AIR IS HIGHLY CONTAMINATED WITH AN UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL AGENT. SEVEN OF BULLOCK'S BEST WENT IN AHEAD OF YOU AND...HUH.

"HUH"
WHAT?

APPARENTLY, THEY HUMPED IN AN AUGGED-UP M.U.C. WITH--

ENGLISH,
PENNYWORTH.

SORRY. AN AUGMENTED MOBILE **ULTRASONIC CANNON**. AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL MILITARY-GRADE WEAPON THAT USES COMPRESSED SOUND WAVES TO SEPARATE CELLS. WHATEVER IS IN THERE...JUST BE **CAREFUL, KID**.



I HAVE EYES ON THE OFFICERS.

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. MAYBE THAT STUFF IN THE AIR IS--

I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT THEM.

AND I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT THE POLICE SCANS. THERE ARE NO HUMAN SIGNATURES ON YOUR FLOOR OR ANY FLOOR NEAR IT.



GK?



WHATEVER YOU'RE LOOKING AT...



...THEY'RE NOT PEOPLE.



NOT ANYMORE.

ONE WEEK AGO.

Batman
Combat
Journal.

I find something today. I'm in the
sewer looking for him again and
suddenly there it is in the water.

The sight makes my stomach turn.
Reptiles shed when they're getting
bigger, not smaller...

I force out the
thoughts. The
arrowhead* is working.
Waylon is getting better.
That's what I choose
to believe.

I also choose to
believe that he's
still my friend.

*SEE ABSOLUTE
BATMAN #16! --K.K.

That they
all are.

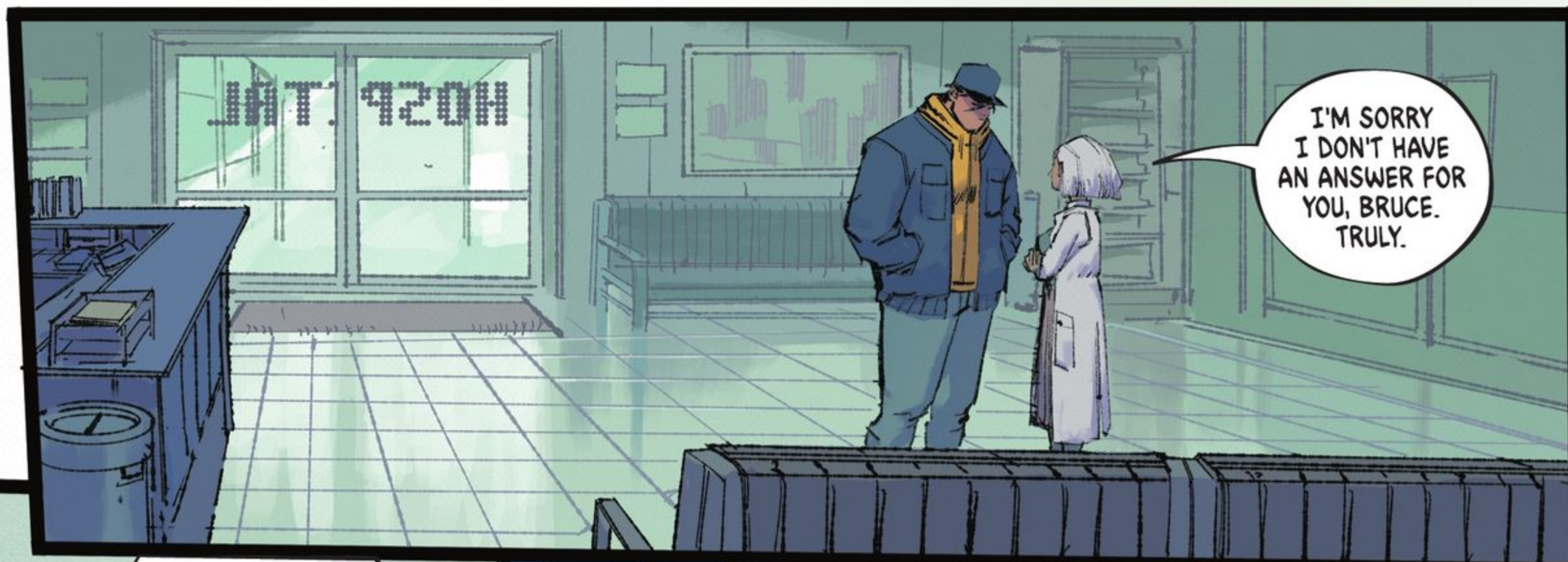
YOU SET
FOOT ON THIS
BLOCK **ONE** MORE
TIME, WE HAVE ORDERS
FROM MR. COBBLEPOT
TO #\$\$%& YOU
UP, WAYNE.

YOU TELL
OZZIE I'LL BE BACK
TOMORROW. AND THE
DAY AFTER THAT...

...AND THE
DAY AFTER THAT
AND THE--

"I WILL
NEVER BE KING.
THEY CALL ME JACK.
MY QUEEN I MET IN THE
FIELD OUT BACK. A PRINCE
IS BORN FROM OUR
UNMATCHED PAIR,
BUT MY LINE ENDS
WITH MY HEIR."

COME ON,
EDDIE. WHAT
AM I?



I'M SORRY
I DON'T HAVE
AN ANSWER FOR
YOU, BRUCE.
TRULY.

BUT HIS CONDITION,
DR. THOMPkins...
I THOUGHT TO
HEAL, HIS SKULL
NEEDED--

ANOTHER MONTH AT LEAST. YES. RIGHT NOW,
HARVEY'S HEAD IS LITERALLY SPLIT INTO
TWO HALVES, BARELY CONNECTED. WHEN
THE NURSES CAME IN THIS MORNING,
THOUGH, HE WAS JUST...

...GONE.



*Anchor yourself. Feel the
pavement through your soles.
Nothing has changed. At least
nothing that matters.*



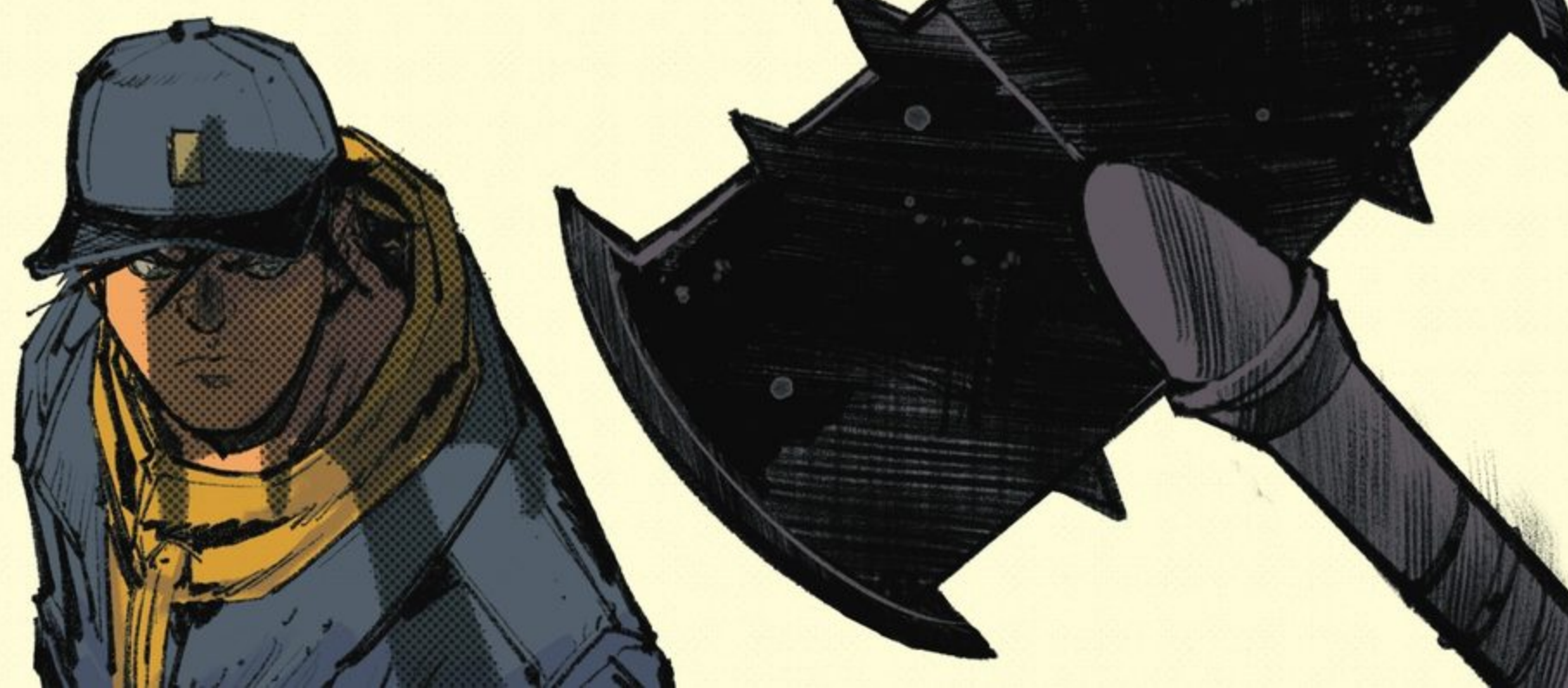
*But everything feels different.
Even Batman.*

*Ever since Bane... they love
him. He's theirs now, too,
in a way I didn't mean
to happen.*

*He was never
supposed to be
the story, just
the means... but
he's everywhere
now.*

*Sometimes
I see that
bat...*

*...and I barely know
what the #\$\$% I'm
looking at.*







THE CAPE...IT'S DENSE FIBER. IT'LL WORK AS A BARRIER. BUT THOSE *THINGS*. THEY WEREN'T *JUST* HUMAN AND PLANT HYBRIDS. THERE WAS *MORE* TO THEM THAN THAT...

YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT BACK AT THE *BUNKER*. WE'RE *ABORTING* THIS MISSION RIGHT--



SHUT UP AND LISTEN! I SAW SOMETHING LIKE THEM ONCE BEFORE. WHEN I WAS IN THAT PLACE...

...ARK M.* I NEED YOU TO LOOK SOMETHING UP FOR ME, PENNYWORTH. A NAME.

WHAT IS IT?

"ISLEY."

*SEE ABSOLUTE BATMAN #10! --K.K.

I AM 23 THE
NEXT TIME I COME
TO GOTHAM.

MY WISH HAS TAKEN HOLD, AT LEAST
IN A SMALL WAY. I HAVE A LAB.
I HAVE FUNDING. MY RESEARCH
FOCUSES ON "GENETIC CYTOLOGICAL
ENGINEERING." INJECTING HUMAN
STEM CELLS WITH PLANT DNA.

I WORK ALL DAY
AND NIGHT, OFTEN
SLEEPING IN THE LAB.

I HAVE SOME EARLY
SUCCESS, TOO. I ENGINEER
A HUMAN CELL CONTAINING
CHLOROPLASTS. A
PHOTOSYNTHETIC HUMAN
CELL THAT CAN USE THE
SUN TO HEAL, REGENERATE.
I TOUR. I PUBLISH.

MORE FUNDING COMES IN. BUT IT'S
NOT ENOUGH. **NOTHING** IS ENOUGH.
MY MOTHER'S SICKNESS IS BACK. HAS
BEEN FOR A WHILE. A KNOT OF CELLS
IN HER BRAIN GROWING OUT OF
CONTROL. HER OWN BODY MAKING
TOO MUCH OF ITSELF.

AT NIGHT I LOOK OUT AT THE CITY AND WONDER IF
MY MOTHER'S SICKNESS IS PART OF SOME **BIGGER
PATHOLOGY** HAPPENING TO US ALL.

ALONE, ISOLATED, SEPARATED BY
WALLS REAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL
AND IMAGINED, WE TURN INWARD,
LOSE TOUCH...MALIGNANCIES GROW
FROM OUR OWN SELVES. BUT IF WE
COULD RECONNECT...**REJOIN.**

"FROM THE HEART,
IVY GIRL," I HEAR MY
MOTHER SAY. AND THEN
IT **HITS** ME. WHAT DOES
IVY DO? IT **CLIMBS.**

MAYBE THERE IS
A VERSION OF ME
SOMEWHERE THAT
STOPS AT PLANTS,
BUT NOT THIS ONE,
NOT HERE.

I WILL COMBINE OUR
CELLS WITH MORE,
NOT JUST **PLANTS.** I
WILL PULL FROM ALL
SIX KINGDOMS OF LIFE.
I WILL CLIMB HIGHER...

...HIGHER THAN
ANYONE THINKS
POSSIBLE.



Stay grounded,
Bruce. Stick
to routine.



The first Saturday of
the month, at nine a.m.,
you visit him.

He might never talk,
might never really explain
why he did it, but still,
you sit and you wait.



I'M SORRY,
BRUCE.
HE ISN'T
COMING.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN? HE
HAS TO.

I'M AFRAID IT'S
UP TO HIM, AND
HE SAID HE JUST...
"DOESN'T WANT TO
MEET ANYMORE.
EVER."

BUT HE
CAN'T--



--YOU
CAN'T DO
THAT!



YOU HEAR
ME, **CHILL?!**
I KNOW YOU'RE
BACK THERE!



**THIS
IS WHAT WE
DO!**





AND YOU WERE ON TO SOMETHING BEFORE. PAMELA ISLEY. M.D., M.S., PH.D., A WHOLE BLOODY ALPHABET. SMART ONE, SHE WAS.

"WAS"?



SHE DIED, AGE 25. LOOKING AT HER OBIT NOW.



WRITTEN BY HER MOTHER. "YOU'VE CLIMBED FARTHER THAN WE CAN FOLLOW..."



"...TO A LAND OF BETTER ANGELS."



BTMNNMph!



GASP!
BATMAN! THE TEAM, WHERE ARE THEY?!

THEY'RE GONE, OFFICER GORDON.



GONE? WE GOT SEPARATED AND I...



BRASS DIDN'T TELL US ANYTHING. THEY JUST SENT US IN WITH THIS AUGGIED-UP M.U.C. AND--SORRY, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DO YOU?

OF COURSE I DO.



HEY! WHAT ARE YOU--



--LOOK, I WAS SENT IN HERE TO STOP WHATEVER IS HAPPENING UP THERE. *ME*. YOU CAN JOIN ME, AS MY *PARTNER*, BUT YOU AND ME? *THIS TIME*, WE'RE A TEAM--





YOU
PIECE
OF--



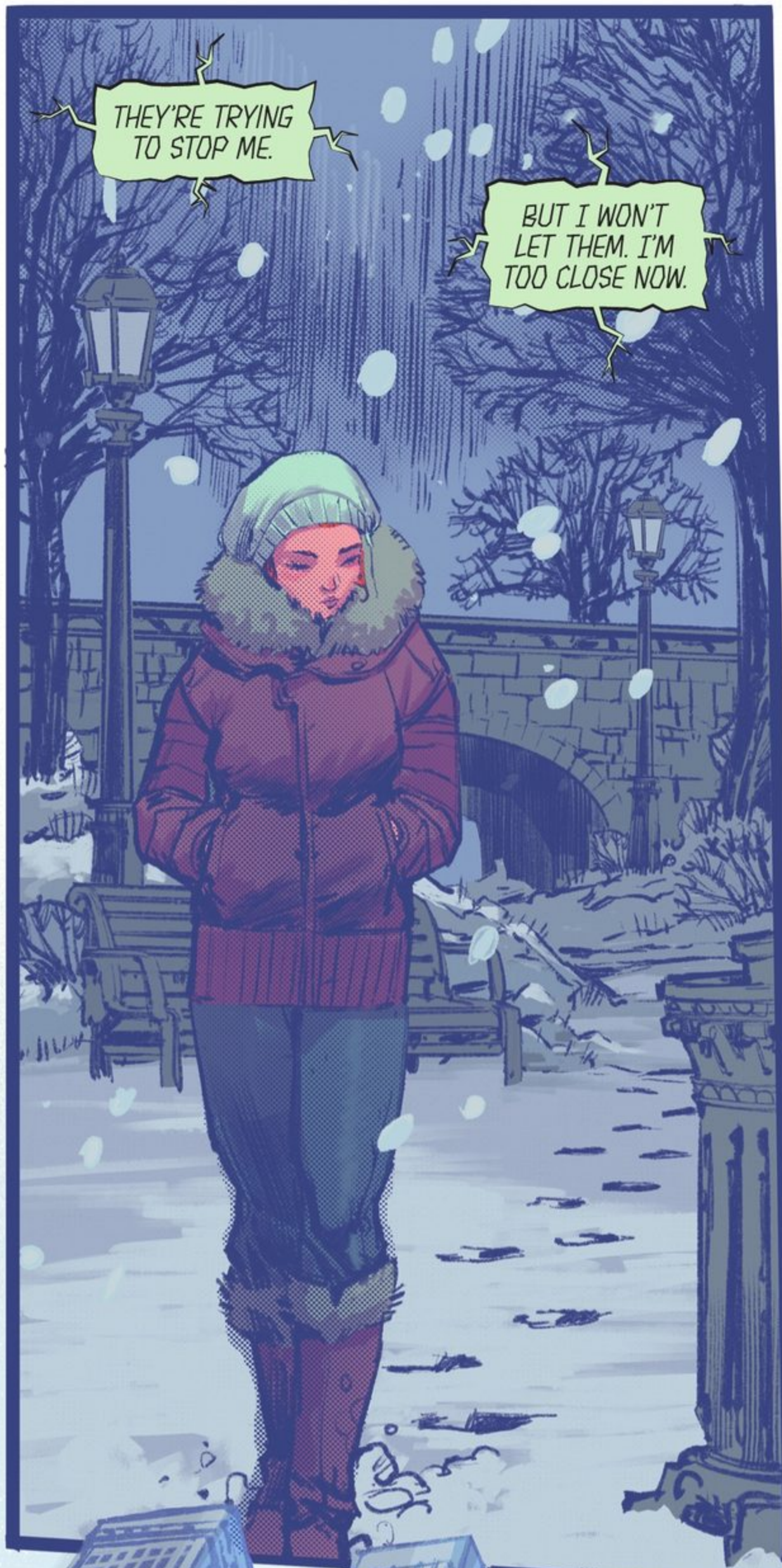
YOU OKAY IN
THERE? THE READINGS...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE HIGHER
YOU GO, THE DENSER THE
SPORES GET.

KID?



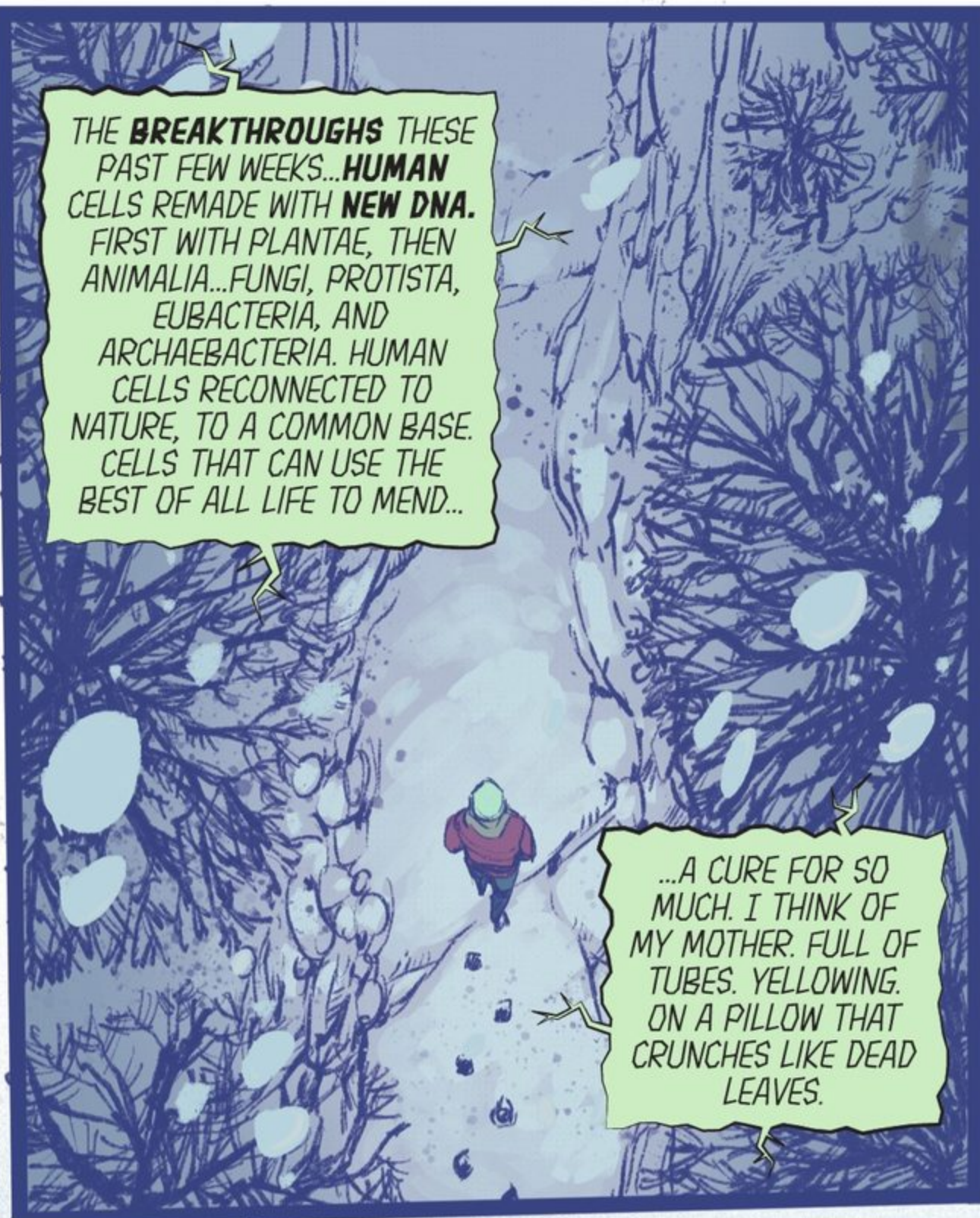
I'M
FINE.

I'M GOING
UP. DON'T GET
IN MY WAY.



THEY'RE TRYING TO STOP ME.

BUT I WON'T LET THEM. I'M TOO CLOSE NOW.



THE **BREAKTHROUGHS** THESE PAST FEW WEEKS...**HUMAN** CELLS REMADE WITH **NEW DNA**. FIRST WITH PLANTAE, THEN ANIMALIA...FUNGI, PROTISTA, EUBACTERIA, AND ARCHAEBACTERIA. HUMAN CELLS RECONNECTED TO NATURE, TO A COMMON BASE. CELLS THAT CAN USE THE BEST OF ALL LIFE TO MEND...

...A CURE FOR SO MUCH. I THINK OF MY MOTHER. FULL OF TUBES. YELLOWING. ON A PILLOW THAT CRUNCHES LIKE DEAD LEAVES.



MY SPONSORS, THOUGH...ALL THEY WANT TO DO IS DIVIDE UP EACH DISCOVERY, INDIVIDUATE, SEPARATE...OLD MEN WHO ONLY THINK OF WHAT MY WORK CAN DO FOR **THEM**.



FINE. I'LL TAKE MY RESEARCH SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEN.

I'LL DO IT TONIGHT.

I'M COMING FOR YOU, MOTHER. I PROMISE.



That night, I go to the one place that still makes sense.

In the doorway, I take a moment to breathe it in.

The smell of old wood. Old books. Then I hear her voice...



I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT HIM. I SEE HIM TRYING SO HARD WITH HIS FRIENDS, TRYING TO PUT ON A BRAVE FACE WITH ME...



HE'S A STRONG KID, MAR. STRONGER THAN EITHER OF US.

THAT'S THE THING, JIM. I KEEP THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU *ASKED* ME.* WITH EVERYTHING GOING ON IN GOTHAM, WHAT DO I WANT TO DO. ME.

*SEE ABSOLUTE BATMAN #9! --K.K.



AND I *KNOW* NOW. BUT...I'M SCARED, JIM.

WHY?

BECAUSE TO DO IT...LOOK, THERE ARE THINGS ABOUT ME THAT YOU DON'T KNOW. THINGS NO ONE DOES. THINGS THAT IF THEY CAME OUT WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING.



...NOT EVERYTHING.



Creak

WHAT WAS THAT?



#\$%&.

THE BAT? WE
DON'T PARTNER
WITH PEOPLE,
HARLEY.

YEAH,
WELL, I SAY
NEW YEAR, NEW
RULES.

IT'S LIKE
THE WHOLE CITY
HAS GONE CRAZY.
ALL BECAUSE
OF HIM.

EVEN IF
YOU REALLY
BELIEVE THAT...
WHAT DO YOU
PROPOSE TO
DO ABOUT
IT, DICK?

HERE'S TO
THE RETURN OF
GOTHAM'S PRODIGAL SON,
JACK GRIMM!

Is it him
changing
things?

Is he
behind
it?

Or is
it me?

Did Batman
do all this?

What's the
real source?

←
EMERGENCY
ROOM



PENNYWORTH?
COME IN.

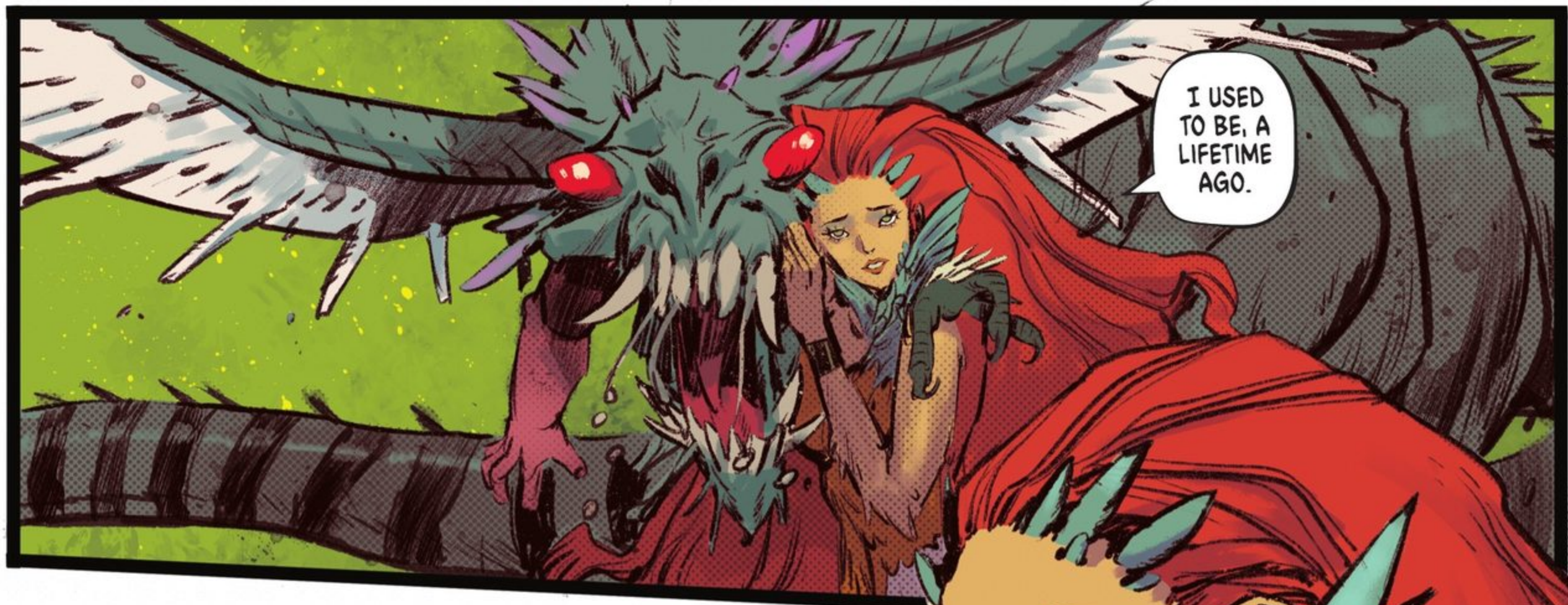
ZZZTTT--
KID, SPORES--
ZZZ!

I'M HERE.
I MADE IT. I'M
AT THE TOP.

YES, YOU
ARE.

ISN'T IT
BEAUTIFUL?

DR.
ISLEY?



I USED
TO BE, A
LIFETIME
AGO.

KID, CAN
YOU HEAR ME?!
I'M GETTING NOTHING
HUMAN UP
THERE!

SHE'S NOT
ISLEY, NOT ANYMORE.
WAIT UNTIL SHE GETS
CLOSER, AND THEN USE
THE M.U.C. YOU HEAR
ME?! SHE'S--
ZZTZZT

I'M ALMOST TO
THE DOOR WHEN
I HEAR THE BOLT
LOCK INTO PLACE.



UNH!

I'LL
BE TAKING
THE WEAPON,
THANK
YOU.



ZZT--
NOW, KID!

IT'S
GONE!

IT'S OKAY.
NOTHING HERE
WILL HURT
YOU.







SUDDENLY
THE FIRE IS
EVERYWHERE.



I REMEMBER FEELING
SO TERRIFIED, BUT MORE
THAN THAT, SO ANGRY.

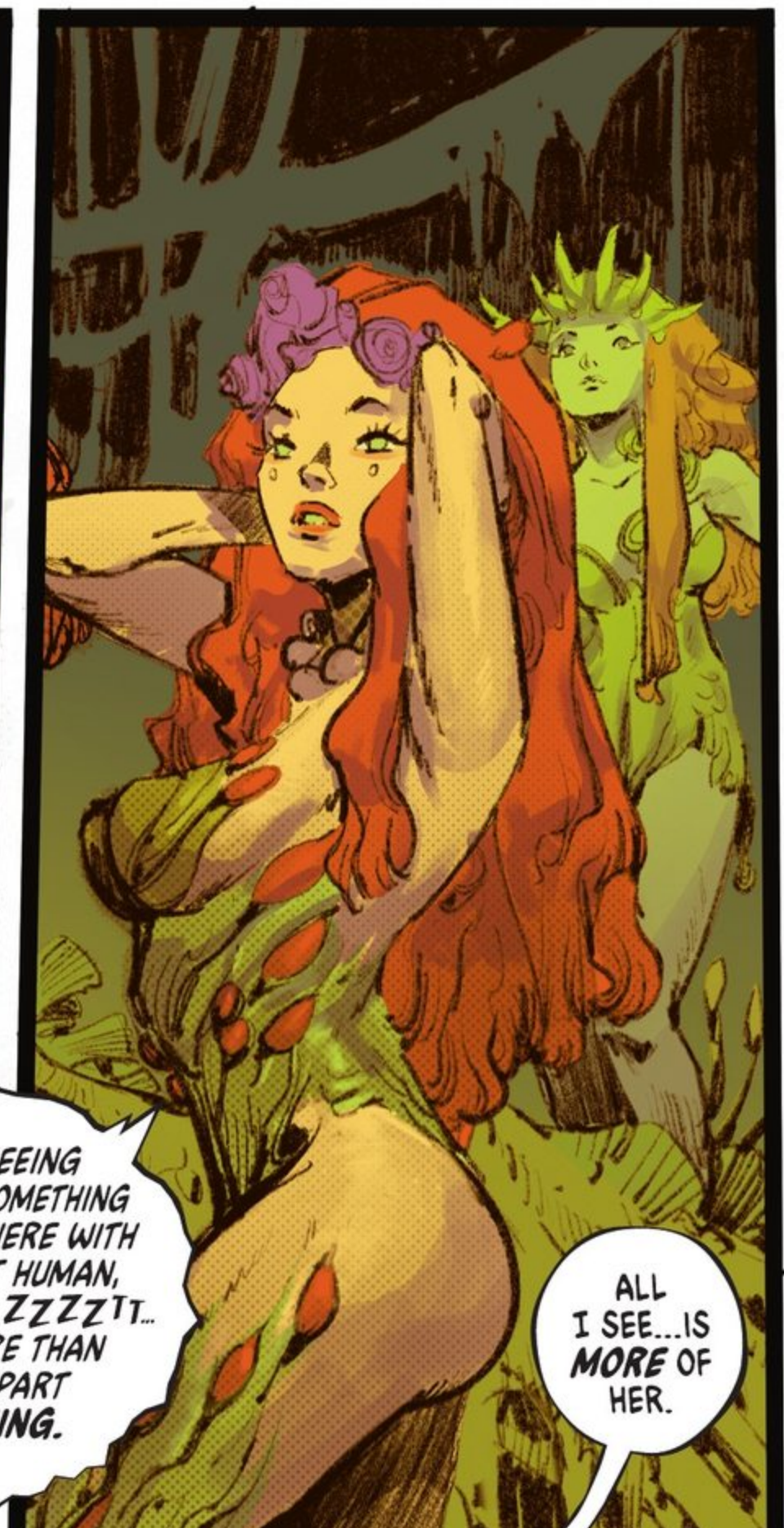
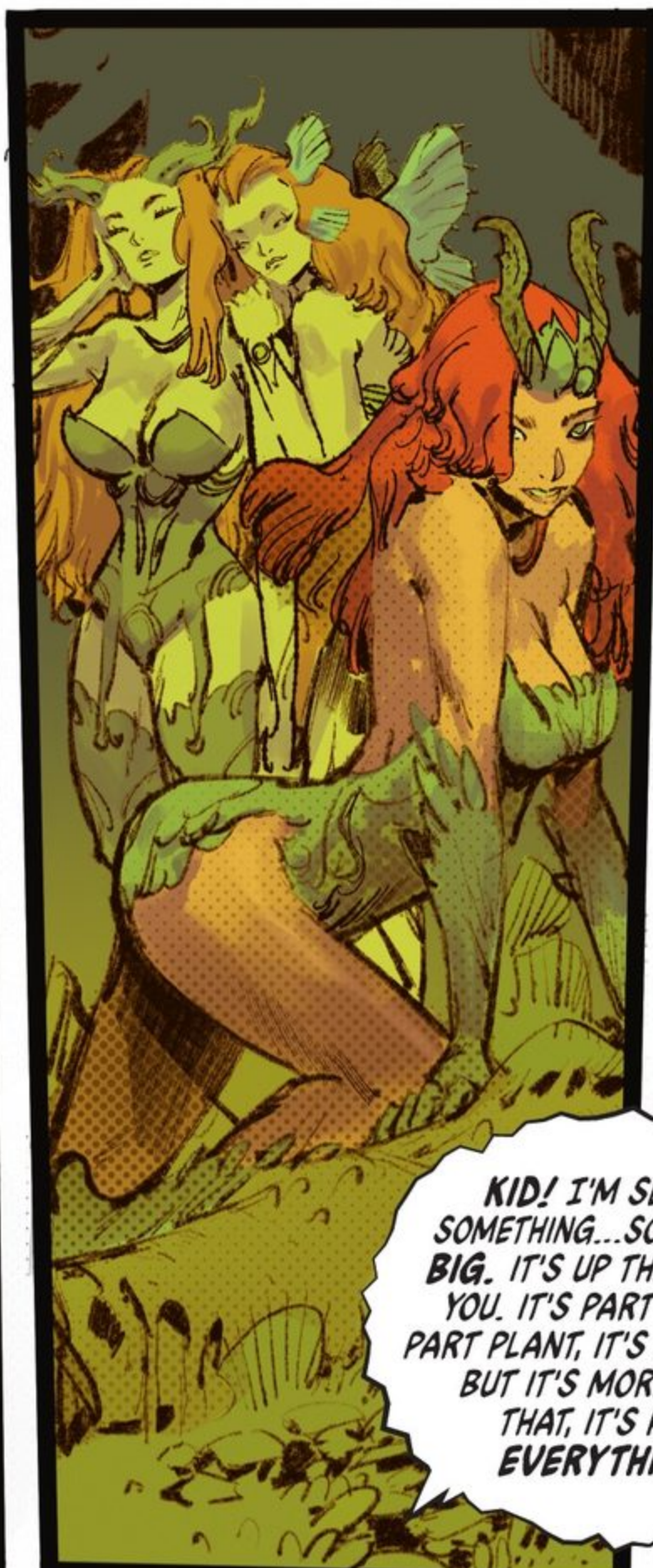
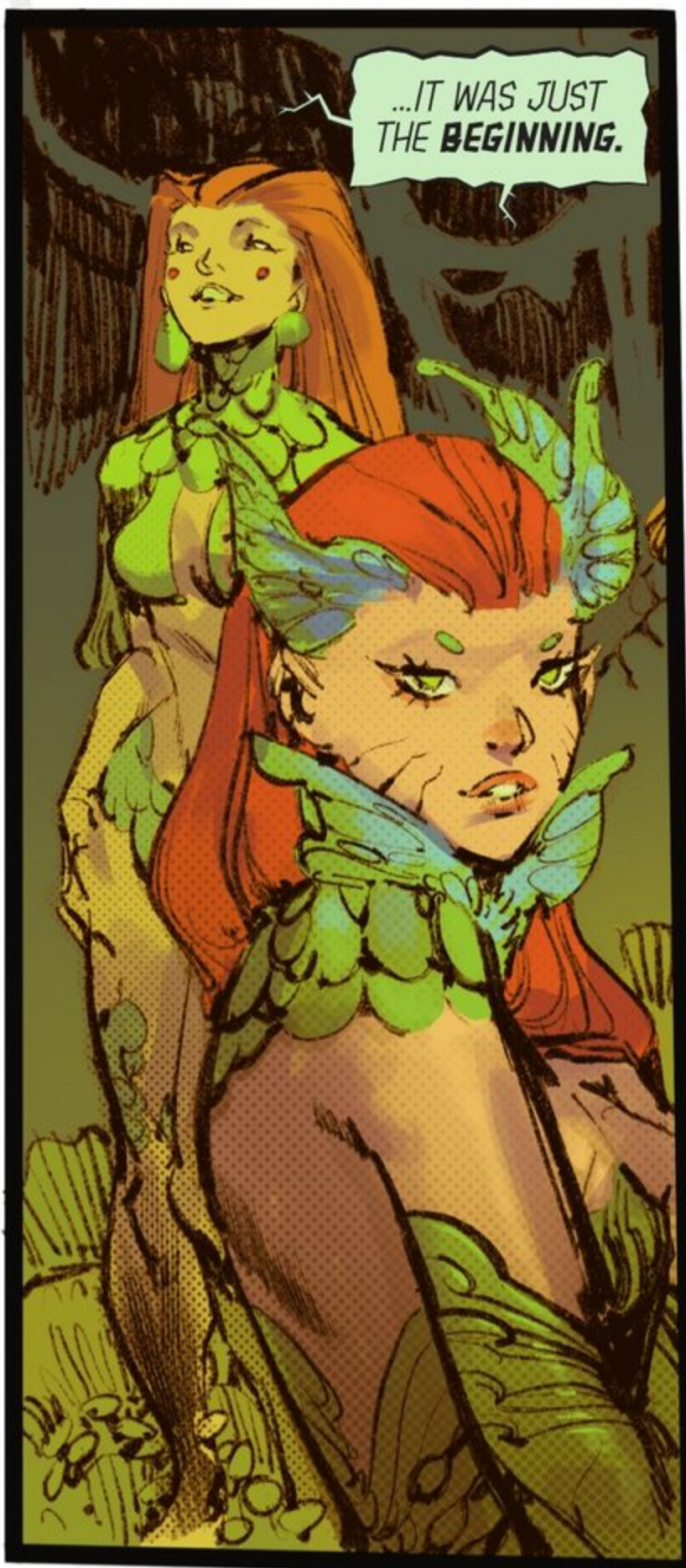


ANGRY BECAUSE
I THOUGHT THAT
WAS THE END.



PENNYWORTH?
IS SHE **DOWN**?
WHAT ARE YOU
SEEING?!

BUT IT
WASN'T...

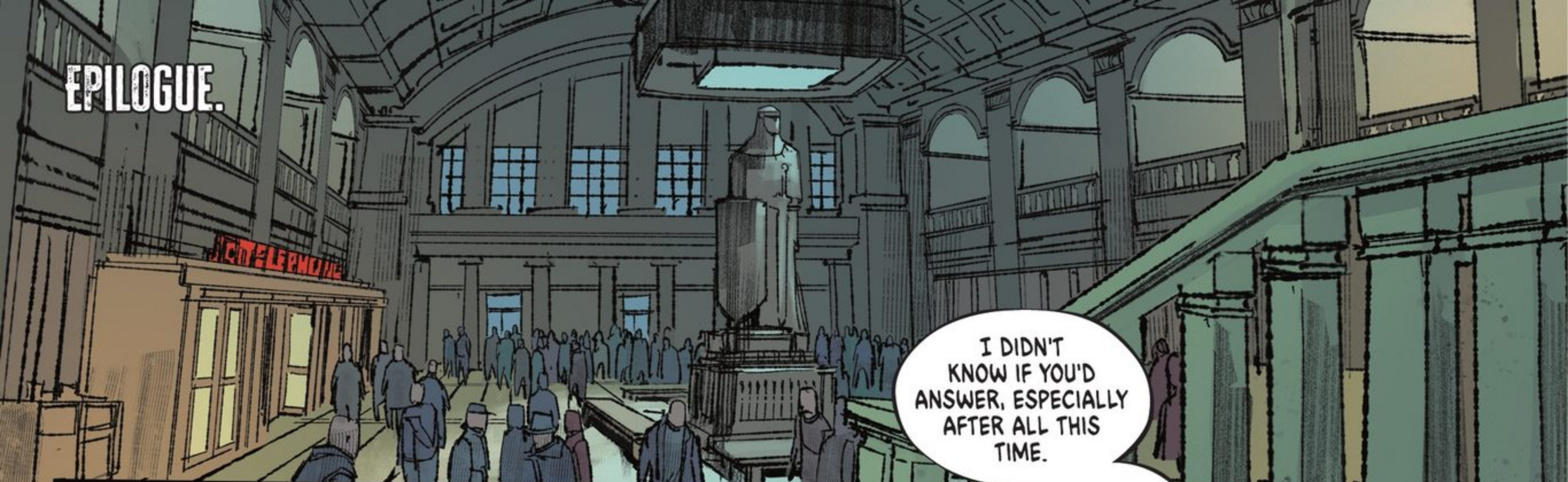


...BUT
I AM.





EPILOGUE.



I DIDN'T
KNOW IF YOU'D
ANSWER, ESPECIALLY
AFTER ALL THIS
TIME.



IT'S ME.
I WASN'T
FOLLOWED...
ARE YOU STILL
THERE?



WE'RE ALWAYS
HERE, MARTHA.
WE KNEW ONE DAY
YOU'D COME
BACK...



...TO THE
COURT OF
OWLS.

TO BE CONTINUED...



DUCK
DUCK
DUCK.

EDDIE
STALLION,
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?

THERE'S A
WHOLE *MENAGERIE*
KILL TEAM OUTSIDE
MY APARTMENT
COMPLEX.

BUDDY,
THEY PUT OUT
A COMPANY-WIDE
ALERT. THERE'S A
HUGE BOUNTY
OUT ON YOU. IT'S
ON SIGHT.

IF THEY SEE
YOU, THEY'RE
GOING TO
KILL YOU.

END OF LIFE

#1 PREVIEW

(15+ FRIENDLY
VERSION!)

WRITER

KYLE STARKS

ARTIST

STEVE PUGH

COLORIST

CHRIS
O'HALLORAN

LETTERER

BECCA CAREY



I'M YOUR
HANDLER *AND* A
PROFESSIONAL, SO
I'M GOING TO HELP
YOU OUT.

EVEN
THOUGH YOU'RE
THE BIGGEST, DUMBEST
PIECE OF SPIT I'VE
EVER MET.

AAAAAAND
EVEN THOUGH
YOU TRIED TO
DUCK MY
SISTER.

I'M A HIT
MAN, KARLA.
YOU *KNOW* I'M
ALWAYS GOING
TO SHOOT MY
SHOT.

AND SHE
LOOKED *SO*
GOOD IN THAT
SILLY LITTLE
DRESS.

YOU WERE
MY GUEST AT
HER *WEDDING*,
YOU RIDICULOUS
MORON.

WELL,
SHE DIDN'T GO
FOR IT, SO I DON'T
KNOW WHY YOU'RE
STILL HARPING
ON IT.

EDDIE,
YOU GOTTA
TELL ME--
WHAT DID
YOU DO?



What he
did. One
hour ago.



I'M NOT
GOING TO LIE,
DEVIN. I WAS PRETTY
PISSED OFF WHEN
YOU BROUGHT AN
UNKNOWN ASSET
TO THE JOB.

BUT THIS
GUY IS
**SEXUALLY
EXPLICIT
METAPHOR!**

THAT'S
HOW MY
BOY **EDDIE
STALLION**
DOES IT.



WHEN YOU HIRE THE THREE **MURDER BROTHERS** TO BE YOUR MUSCLE, YOU GET THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS.

BUT LITTLE BROTHER JOE GOT PULLED OVER SPEEDING AND WAS PICKED UP ON SOME OUTSTANDING WARRANTS.



YOU SAID TODAY WAS THE ONLY TIME THIS COULD GO DOWN. SO MY BRO ETHAN AND I HAD TO MAKE A SUBSTITUTION.

WE KNOW EDDIE STALLION HERE FROM *WAY* BACK IN BASIC TRAINING. HE'S AS LEGIT AS THEY COME.

HEY LOOK! A **STRAGGLER!**

BANG BANG



THIS MOTHERDUCKER IS **MENAGERIE**, MY GUY.

MENAGERIE? THE INTERNATIONAL CABAL OF ANIMAL-THEMED HIT MEN?

DUDES PUTTING ON MASKS AND CALLING THEMSELVES "THE LION"?

COME ON. THAT'S FAKE AS HELL.



IT'S REAL AS DUCK IS WHAT IT IS, DUMMY.



EDDIE'S **SECOND GENERATION** MENAGERIE, TOO. HIS DAD--

HEY! WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT ASSHOLE.



IF YOU KNEW WHAT HE PUT ME THROUGH YOU WOULDN'T--

THAT'S MY BAD, EDDIE. MY BAD.



YOU'RE
A GENIUS
BRINGING EDDIE,
BRO. THIS IS THE
EASIEST MONEY
WE'LL EVER
MAKE.

THE
MOST WE'LL
EVER MAKE,
TOO.

HEY,
I GOT
THE VAULT
OPEN!

OKAY,
LET'S GET
THIS JOB OVER
WITH.



WHOA!
DO YOU GUYS
SEE THIS LITTLE
WEIRDO?

WHAT
KIND OF DEVIANT
DO YOU HAVE TO
BE TO HAVE A
LITTLE CREEP
STATUE?



THAT'S
EDGAR
ALLAN POE,
EDDIE.

WHO?



YOU KNOW,
"QUOTE THE RAVEN
NEVERMORE" AND
ALL THAT SPIT.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
THE DUCK YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

...NEVERMORE?

IS THAT
WHERE THE
ELVES
LIVE?



HEY, GET IN
HERE ALREADY!
WE NEED YOU
GUYS TO START
LOADING THIS
SPIT UP.

HEY, DEVIN,
WHO'D YOU
SAY THIS PLACE
BELONGED
TO?



SOME RICH
MOTHERDUCKER
ABOUT TO GET
POORER.

IT'S THE
DUCKING
JACKPOT,
BOYS!

JEWELS,
CASH, BEARER
BONDS,
GOLD.

IT'S A
SMORGASBORD
OF BOOTY.

LET'S
GOOOOOO!



THIS IS A SHOEBOX JUST FILLED WITH DIAMONDS. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS IS WORTH?



LET'S START GETTING THIS STUFF OUT OF HERE. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, BOYS!



THINK
THINK
THINK



YOU HAVE PASSED THE FINAL TEST. YOU HAVE PLEDGED YOUR ALLEGIANCE. ONLY ONE STEP REMAINS, LEGACY DESIGNATE STALLION--



JUST A COUPLE H.R. NOTES TO GO OVER BEFORE WE WRAP UP.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE A **ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY** IN REGARDS TO DISRESPECTING A REGION BOSS OR THEIR PROPERTY.

AND WHEN IT COMES TO **KILLING** ANOTHER MENAGERIE MEMBER THERE'S QUITE A BIT OF PROTOCOL SO LET'S GET STARTED--



Two hours later.

AAAAAAND INITIAL HERE, HERE, AND HERE. PERFECT.

WELCOME TO THE MENAGERIE!



DUCK!



DEVIN,
WHICH OF THESE
MEN IS YOUR
BROTHER?

ETHAN?

THAT'S
ETHAN RIGHT
THERE.



YO,
EDDIE! WHAT
THE HELL,
MAN?

THAT STUPID
BASSHOLE WHO HIRED
YOU JUST HAD US ROB
THE EAST COAST HEAD
OF THE MENAGERIE,
DEVIN. *THE
RAVEN.*

YOUR
DUDE *DUCKED*
US. AND NO ONE DUCKS
EDDIE STALLION AND
GETS AWAY WITH
IT.



I MEAN IF THEY *BAD*
DUCKED ME, THEY DON'T
GET AWAY WITH IT. IF THEY
SCREWED ME OVER OR
WHATEVER.

NOT LIKE THEY
HAD *SEX* WITH ME.
I DON'T KILL PEOPLE
WHEN THEY--



YOU KNOW
WHAT? YOU
GET IT.



HEY, WHAT DOES
THAT MEAN? THAT
WE ROBBED THE
MENAGERIE?

IT MEANS
WE'RE *SUPER
DUCKED*,
MAN!

CONTINUED IN
(AND UNCENSORED!)

END
OF LIFE

#1 ON SALE IN FEBRUARY

CELEBRATING
40 YEARS
OF THE COMICS MASTERPIECE.



© & ™ DC.

BATMAN™

THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS™

BY FRANK MILLER
WITH KLAUS JANSON AND LYNN VARLEY





NATION

SPOTLIGHT ON

ALL IN

TRINITY

DAUGHTER OF

WONDER WOMAN

INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

Writer Tom King and artist Daniel Sampere introduced Trinity in 2023 as the daughter of Wonder Woman and Steve Trevor. The character (familiarily known as Lizzie) instantly captivated fans and headlined her own six-issue series, the aptly titled *Trinity: Daughter of Wonder Woman*, from King and artist Belén Ortega—featuring Lizzie at three different ages in a time-trekking adventure intersecting with some of the most pivotal moments in DC history. With *Trinity: Daughter of Wonder Woman* available soon as a softcover collected edition, King reflects on what makes this story so special.

Tom, it's fair to say you're primarily known for writing a darker type of story at DC, and *Trinity* feels like you're having a different type of fun. What did this story mean to you and how does it stand out from your other DC work?

Trinity is hands-down one of my favorite writing experiences I've ever had. Sometimes I write things—*Mister Miracle*, *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*—and there's a little magic in it, and when it's coming out I can see how it's connecting with the audience, see how it's connecting with me, see how it's connecting with my children. *Trinity* has that.

I love my sad, depressing comics, don't get me wrong. But I also love a different kind of comic. I grew up on these wonderful things I'd read in the newspaper that made me smile and laugh and were silly—and were actually kind of deep. If you read *Peanuts*, if you read

Calvin and Hobbes, it's funny and silly day-to-day, but the whole thing has an incredible message about imagination and depression and relating to other people and hope in the world. All that stuff is in there, but it's disguised behind a warm, welcoming humor. I wanted to make a book that did that.

It's fun seeing the tone of the story, and how you've juxtaposed it with past DC events—including going back to territory you're very familiar with in the Bat/Cat wedding.

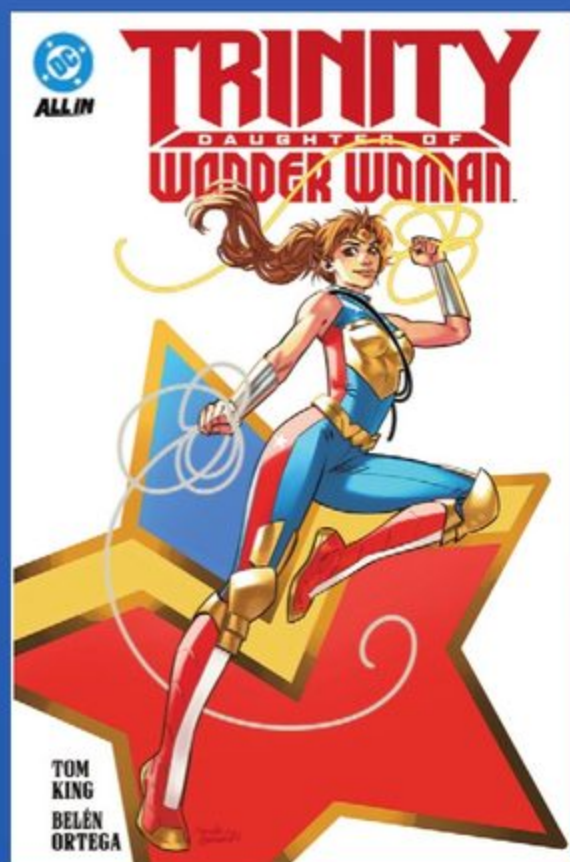
We live in very heavy times. You always want to give people a break from that. That's part of the power of comics.

But on the other side of it, of all the books I'm writing, this is the one that makes me cry. There are these very emotional moments about these three young women going through this experience.

They're trying to reconnect with their father. They're also looking to connect with each other through the unique experience of being alone in the world—being the daughter of Wonder Woman. How unique that is, how isolating that can be. There are these moments of utter revelation where they find each other, and it connects you to a deeper emotion. While you're laughing at silly dog jokes.

Speaking of dogs, the homage variant covers featuring corgis are incredible.

I went to Belén Ortega—who is brilliant—and asked, what do you want to draw? "I want a samurai story and a corgi story." I was like, "How am I going to do a story about samurai and corgis?" It became so much fun. It started with this utterly bizarre problem I did not know how I could solve and became the solution for the whole thing.



READ THE *TRINITY: DAUGHTER OF WONDER WOMAN* COLLECTED EDITION, AVAILABLE IN MARCH!

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